

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 OMB-01

/080 W

-----002557 231521Z /44

R 231216Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8021

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: PERU'S LABOR PROBLEMS CONTINUE

REF: LIMA 10936

1. THE 30,000 EMPLOYEES OF PERU'S MINISTRY OF HEALTH RETURNED TO WORK DEC 20 FOR A 48 HOUR PERIOD TO ALLOW RENEWED DISCUSSION OF WAGE INCREASES BETWEEN UNION LEADERS AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS (PARA 2, REFTEL). ABOUT 8,000 STRIKING LEATHER AND SHOE WORKERS REPORTEDLY RESUMED WORK DEC 20-21 BUT THREATENED TO GO OUT AGAIN IN JANUARY. LEATHER WORKERS ARE SEEKING PAY RAISES AND THE REHIRING OF UNION LEADERS FIRED FOR PREVIOUS STRIKE ACTIVITIES. THE LABOR MINISTRY HAS ORDERED 8 WORKERS OF THE LATTER FEDERATION REHIRED.

2. IN THE GOVERNMENT STEEL MILL AND MARKETING ENTITY, SIDER-PERU, A PARTIAL STRIKE (20 TO 30 PERCENT) IN SUPPORT OF LEADERS FIRED IN JULY STARTED DEC 6 AND CONTINUES THIS WEEK, ALTHOUGH THE PLANT HAS NEVER CLOSED. THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTED WORKER PROTESTS OVER THREATS FROM LEADERS WHO WANT TO CONTINUE THE STRIKE.

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3. IN A SOMEWHAT SURPRISING MOVE, THE MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST FEDERATION OF BANK WORKERS REPORTEDLY HAS OBTAINED A GOVERNMENT DECREE RETURNING 220 BANK WORKER UNION LEADERS TO THEIR POSITIONS. THE FEDERATION PUBLISHED A LETTER TO PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ, THANKING HIM FOR THIS INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THE FIRED WORKERS.

4. COMMENT: SEVERAL LABOR LEADERS ARE PREDICTING AN INCREASED NUMBER OF "ECONOMIC" STRIKES IN JANUARY. THE GOP HAS DECLARED 1978 THE "YEAR OF AUSTERITY" AND PROBABLY WILL TRY TO DISCOURAGE WAGE INCREASES AFTER DECREERING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE. SEVERAL UNION LEADERS ARE COMPLAINING THAT 1977 WAS ALREADY A YEAR OF AUSTERITY WITH A SIGNIFICANT DROP IN REAL WAGES. RANK-AND-FILE PRESSURES PROBABLY WILL GENERATE MORE LABOR PROTESTS AND STRIKES IN JANUARY DESPITE THE REALIZATION BY MANY UNION LEADERS THAT THE CHANCES OF REAL WAGE GAINS ARE ALMOST NIL.

DECON 12/23/78.

SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIMA11065
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770479-1107
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771222/aaaaasgo.tel
Line Count: 74
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LIMA 10936
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 140230
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PERU'S LABOR PROBLEMS CONTINUE
TAGS: ELAB, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dac2cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009